

Serial No. 10/710,331
Attorney Docket No. 70655.2900

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Final Office Action mailed on November 29, 2005, within two-months. Thus, Applicants request an Advisory Action, if necessary. Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 were pending and the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2 and 4-17. In reply, Applicants amend claims 1, 4, 11, 13, 15, and 17, cancel claim 16 without prejudice to filing claims having similar subject matter in one or more applications, add claims 18-22 and address the Examiner's remarks. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully assert that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time the inventions covered therein were made and therefore, Applicants have complied with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1-2 and 4-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0122209 ("Black") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0098621 ("de Sylva"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants' amendment to independent claim 1 renders this rejection moot. As indicated by the Examiner in the Office Action dated November 29, 2005, regarding claim 11 of application no. 10/710,308, "verifying whether the sample is associated with a preset transaction limit" is non-obvious.

Neither Black, de Sylva, nor any combination thereof, discloses or suggests a system for registering biometric information comprising at least "a device configured to associate said proffered biometric sample with user information and smartcard information to create a data packet, and to associate said proffered biometric sample with a preset transaction limitation," as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants assert that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

Applicants cancel claim 16. Claims 2 and 4-17 variously depend from claim 1 and contain all of the elements thereof. Therefore, Applicants assert that claims 2 and 4-17 are differentiated from the cited reference at least for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition

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to their own respective features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-17.

NEW CLAIMS 18-22

New claims 18-22 variously depend from claim 1 and contain all of the elements thereof. Therefore, Applicants assert that new claims 18-22 are differentiated from the cited references at least for the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to their own respective features.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims (19 total, 1 independent) are in condition for allowance. No new matter is added in this Reply. Reconsideration of the application is thus requested. **The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.** Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner has any questions regarding this Reply or the application in general.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 24, 2006

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